

**Council on Educational Services for EC**

**12/09/15**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Dale	Carpenter
Jennifer	Degen
Jennifer	Grady
Laura	Hall
Katie	Holler
Susan	Humbert
Nicole	Jimerson
Mary	LaCorte
Carla	McNeil
Teresa	Mebane
Martin	Pharr
Lisa	Phillips
Vicki	Simmons
Greg	Singleton
Gina	Smith
Rick	Smith

**Staff**

Tish	Bynum
Carol Ann	Hudgens
William	Hussey
Nancy	Johnson
Heather	Ouzts

**Visitors**

Linda	Creamer
Cynthia	Daniels-Hall
Patti	Doyle
Eric	Hall
Jacqui	Hawkins
Cheryl	Posner-Cahill
Gerri	Smith
Jennine	Vlasty

**Summary of Actions:**

**Call to Order** – Council approved Sept. 2015 meeting minutes

**State Performance Plan (SPP) / Annual Performance Report (APR)** – On Indicator 6, the Council suggested target increase more accelerated after PD is implemented. Nancy Johnson will obtain more information from preschool staff in order to consider more accelerated target increments.

**Agency Updates** – No action

**Revisions of Handbook on Parents' Rights** – Laura Hall will serve on the stakeholder group as Council representation.

## **Committee Work**

\*Council voted to approve Dec. 2014, March 2015 and June 2015 meeting minutes.

Reports & Data – presented Committee Reporting Form to complete at committee meetings (at and in between Council meetings); subcommittee chair signs off, lists committee members, and submits all forms at September meeting.

Unmet Needs – needs additional time for Public Comments; committee to provide proposed action plan to executive committee.

Policies & Procedures – reviewing Bylaws, audio recording, voting procedures, adding standing committees and review other states' Councils.

Executive Committee – will work on 2014-15 annual report draft.

## **Announcements**

Vicki Simmons wants Council to take a tour of school at the March meeting.

## **Call to Order**

Nicole called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Members and guests provided introductions. Members were asked to review the agenda. Nicole requested the approval of the three previous meetings' minutes be moved to later in the day after committee work. Nicole asked that Sept. meeting minutes be reviewed now. The Council approved Sept. 2015 meeting minutes with edits.

Public Comments – Nicole explained it is the intent for this to be a portion of the agenda from this point forward to allow the public to come and share any concerns. The total agenda time (9:45 – 10:00) will be 15 minutes; three (3) minutes per person. This is for informational purposes only and to gather trends. The goal is to start in March. The public will be on the record to express concerns to Council. The publicity of it will provide alternate methods of submission other than in person.

## **State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)**

Nancy Johnson, SPP Consultant for NC DPI, opened the presentation by advising the SPP/APR is now one combined document called Annual Performance Report (APR).

OSEP's compliance and financial audit in the past required corrective actions. The corrective actions from the last audit, 2011, have been made. On Feb. 1, 2016, NC will submit its tenth APR. The APR started out with 20 Indicators and the report now has 17 Indicators. Indicator 17 is due April 1 – more time given because it's new and a very involved Indicator. Data presented by Nancy is within a half of a percentage point of the final data to be submitted. As of today, NC data is not loaded/available from OSEP which may prevent NC from submitting its APR by February 1st.

Some targets are pre-set by OSEP and some are set by NC. All Council recommendations from last December were accepted into the APR submission. The targets were reasonable and obtainable.

Brief overview of Indicator 1 and 17: Indicator 1 - the target is pre-set at 80%; the 4-yr graduation rate for students with disabilities is 67.1%; 5-yr rate is 69.5%. Both have been increasing every year for the last 10 years. All children are over 83.7% graduation rate. Some states "all students" are lower than NC's SWD rate.

All children from the given 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort are included in the denominator to create the percentage. NC has one diploma; there is no differentiation for OCS students. Students obtaining a graduation certificate are counted in the denominator but not in the numerator for the percentage determination for the year of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort. The authoritative data source is NC DPI Accountability Division. NC does not calculate 6-yr graduation data. There is talk of OCS having a 6-yr option but the OCS program would need revisions with the employment aspect in order to be more robust.

Students with disabilities drop-out rates are decreasing: 8.1% in 2004-05 to 3.8% in 2013-14. The target is 4%.

One item for the new data system is for districts to be able to pull down real-time data vs. working with “two-year old” data.

Indicator 3 - Reading and Math participation and proficiency rates – OSEP won’t upload these data to NC APR until late December or early January. In previous years, grade 6 and 7 experienced the most drop in percentage points. SLD and OHI are the most prevalent disability categories that didn’t do well with assessments. NC proficiency levels (5) – Proficiency at levels 4 and 5 are college and career ready and are the percentages NC is required to report in the APR. In our explanation, NC also included proficiency at level 3 which is state level proficiency. An email will be sent to Council members with the data after it becomes available.

Indicator 5 – school-age LRE. Students that are homebound are covered in 5c – separate environments. NC did some targeted monitoring reviews in LEAs utilizing homebound at a high rate.

Indicator 7 – preschool outcomes making progress in all areas. I (Positive Social Interactions), II (Acquiring Knowledge and Skills) and III (Self-Help Skills).

Indicator 17 – State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) - is a plan within a plan. The NC focus is the 5-yr graduation rate and NC must show progress within this Indicator. Indicator 17/SSIP has a three-phase action plan:

<b>Phase 1 – April 1, 2016</b>	<b>Phase 2 – February 1, 2016</b>	<b>Phase 3 – 2017 – 2020</b>
Data Analysis	Infrastructure Development	Results of Ongoing Evaluation
Analysis of State Infrastructure to support improvement and build capacity	Support for LEA implementation of evidence-based practices	Revisions to SSIP
State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR) for SWD	Evaluation	
Selection of coherent improvement strategies		
Theory of action		

LEA building capacity is an important factor. The LEA self-assessment, a broad general education and special education overview of the LEA, is for LEAs to be able to rate themselves. MTSS effects LEA assessments and is not encompassed by Indicator 17. NC DPI’s regional meetings are aligned to mirror / provide technical assistance for LEA self-assessments from an outcomes perspective not necessarily a compliance viewpoint. UNC Charlotte is assisting NC DPI on how to evaluate this plan for a mechanism to measure effectiveness and fidelity of strategies implemented.

Indicator 6 – OSEP considers preschool as ages 3 – 5. There are two prongs to Indicator 6: (A) regular early childhood program and (B) separate special education class, separate school, residential facility. Disaggregating data by age is not yet complete. The OSEP definition change has impacted the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) rate from 50.3% to 36.7%. The percentages are down from last year due to the change in reporting based on the definition changes.

Council members may email Nancy directly with direct input regarding resetting the targets for Indicator 6 and Nancy will send form to provide recommendation. The Council suggested target increase more accelerated after PD is implemented. The first year of PD includes helping LEAs understand definition, reporting mechanisms, and data analysis; the second year is drilling down into data to develop practices. DPI EC Division will be proactive to the LEA needs.

Nancy will obtain more information from preschool staff for Council in order to consider more accelerated target increments. It will take two to five years to really see an impact.

The target goal is to improve least restrictive environment by increasing number of students in regular early childhood programs. Council suggested live visits to see what preschool really looks like now.

## **Agency Updates**

Bill Hussey, Director of NC DPI Exceptional Children Division, announced the Division had a great annual conference that was well attended.

Senate approved ESEA (Elementary Secondary Education Act). Key issue is percentage of people not participating in the 1% and measured differently. Bill will provide further updates as they occur. Highly Qualified (HQ) measurement is going to be up to states. No change in assessments as far as the years in which they occur. IDEA will soon come up for re-authorization. NC will push for increased funding. NASDSE (National Association of State Directors of Special Education) Board is looking at making recommendations to carry forward as a platform for IDEA. The Council may provide feedback/input to proposed platform.

Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Revisions – may vote at January State Board of Education meeting. Some SBE members wanted more detailed information and EC Division has been in continual discussions/meetings, which included principals and teachers. SBE members were initially concerned with the use of a discrepancy model, in the end the main concern was implementation of MTSS. EC Division has resolved their concerns. Some of the teachers did not like MTSS initially. SBE members accepted teachers' feedback and Bill was impressed with SBE members' tenacity and good questions.

Dyslexia – is experiencing a national movement –NC does not clinically diagnose dyslexia at school level. EC Division believes in open communication lines at LEA and SEA level about dyslexia. This will alleviate confusion and result in positive outcomes for students with reading disabilities.

Exceptional Children Accountability Tracking System (ECATS) – RFP is out to vendors. Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the EC Division will receive and answer questions from vendors. ECATS has a MTSS component, IEP component and ability to bill for Medicaid. EC Division will provide a free base

system with options to add on at LEA expense. All needed data for Indicators should be built in and LEAs should have access to real-time data. Additionally the data will upload into a Comprehensive LEA Report (CLEAR). EC Directors have been asked what to include in the CLEAR but EC Directors should be able to manipulate data all the time. ECATS will also have the ability to look at progress on IEP goals with details such as age, race, ethnicity, etc. This will also help to determine appropriateness and effectiveness of strategies. The new IEP forms will be a part of the new system.

Vendor selection will be narrowed down to three to four vendors to do demonstrations in Feb./March. By April the EC Division hopes to have final vendor decision made. ECATS pilot training will take place in the summer through the fall. Selected LEAs will double enter data into the old and new data system to make sure new system works as well as work out bugs before the statewide live date.

The Council supports ECATS and asked what needs to happen in order for it to be mandated statewide. Bill explained LEAs cannot be made to use the new system; however, the base system with MTSS and Medicaid billing included is free to LEAs. This will help small LEAs with Medicaid billing issues. Additional features will be available at LEA expense. Eliminating significant data collection costs regardless of the LEA size is the incentive.

EC Funding Stakeholder Committee – looking at three other states (Maryland, Tennessee, South Carolina) statewide funding formulas as NC is considering changing its funding model. The rate has been the same since 1992. EC Division is reviewing LEA costs of high-needs kids, cost of programming, breaking down federal, state and local funds to determine how much is being spent to get a reality cost for one statewide average cost. Also looking at service delivery – billing percentage vs average EC child. Appears a sliding funding scale based on needs is needed. \$140 million on table not brought down for EC kids. EC Division ready to present stakeholder update to legislature to hopefully receive funding interest in the short session.

School Based Mental Health Stakeholders - looking at conducting surveys to parents, LEAs, and mental health service providers and a more specific survey to school contacts regarding services available. The sole purpose is to identify students with mental health issues and provide resources.

Federal Monitoring/Risk Assessment - Feds picking up pace on states' risk assessment monitoring. A portion of Indicators 1-17 will be included in the risk assessment. The feds also appear to be focused on dispute resolution.

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) requested SiMR be the focus. Bill will provide updates as they occur.

Developmental Day (DD) programs – most school districts do not operate DD year round because LEAs have to follow five- star model and be open a certain number of hours per day. There is outside pressure from private providers and they have opportunity to talk to legislature. Small districts with DD programs would end up shutting down and kids would not have a place to go because there are no private providers in those areas. This would create a huge group of kids not receiving services and it impacts a lot of LEAs.

Format to report back to legislature. This is basic information. Bill may have personal opinions, but will be happy to give you any data you want.

## **Revisions of Handbook on Parents' Rights**

Heather Ouzts introduced herself and duties. Leigh Mobley and Heather will be leading a group to review the Handbook on Parents' Rights. A stakeholder group will be meeting in January to help make the format more parent friendly. Laura Hall will serve on the stakeholder group as Council representation.

## **Committee Work**

Katie Cornetto, attorney for the State Board of Education, advised the previous meetings minutes can be considered meeting notes. Council to vote to accept the meeting minutes (even though they may lack completeness) or post an online statement to contact the Division to obtain the minutes from these three Council meetings. The Council voted to approve the posting of the three previous meeting minutes with a disclaimer statement. Katie will assist with the disclaimer statement.

Katie recommends digital recording.

**Reports & Data** – Committee Reporting Form – Chairperson of each committee is responsible to complete at committee meetings and/or in between Council meetings. Subcommittee chair signs off on the form and each committee members listed. Subcommittee chairs submit all Committee Reporting Forms at the end of the year (September), not after each meeting. Online version requested.

## **Unmet Needs**

Public Comments opportunity may need additional time to review and plan. The subcommittee may need to meet between Council meetings to finalize action plan. Committee wants to provide proposed action plan to executive committee and/or entire Council for feedback. Schedule GoToMeeting for unmet needs.

## **Policies & Procedures**

Reviewing Bylaws in order to make some recommendations, including adding audio recording of meeting, clarify voting procedures and adding standing committees. The subcommittee will review other states Councils as well.

## **Executive Committee**

Will work on 2014-15 annual report draft and will review Council membership regarding vacancies and submitting requests for members.

## **Announcements**

Vicki Simmons is the Guilford County employee of the month for December 2015.

Laura Hall has hit the ground running about Council work in her region.

Volunteer needed to serve on stakeholder group to review new IEP form software. Contact Carol Ann Hudgens if interested.

Vicki Simmons wants Council to take a tour of school at the March meeting. The mapquest location is:  
4815 Harvey Rd., Jamestown, NC or 200 Haynes Rd., Jamestown, NC. Onsite contact is: Connie at 336  
881-7170.